

CHARLES

I.

1627.

*King Charles to the Duke of Buckingham.*

Steenie,

October 13.

SINCE I have understood by Jack Ashburnham your necessities, for fault of timely supplies, I still stand in fear (until I shall hear from you) that these may come too late; but I hope that God is more merciful to me, than to inflict so great a punishment on me. Holland can tell you all occurrences here, which I may use for a good excuse of a short letter; but in case his gladness to see you (I judge him by myself) may make him forget some things, I will remember those I have most care of. The Denmark ambassadors, since their taking leave of me, having demanded a private audience, there moved unto me, to send you powers to treat with France, in case they could procure them to begin; their reason for this was, gaining of time, which, they said, otherwise must needs be lost: but my answer was, that it was no ways honourable for me to send powers to treat, before I knew France's disposition to treat, it being necessary for my honour, that they should begin, not I. After some dispute, they found my reasons good, they ending with this request (which I could not refuse, but was glad of), that they might advertise you from time to time of their proceedings with the French king. And to give them some contentment at their farewell, I told them, that in case they made a peace between me and France, the army that you command, should be ready to serve my uncle, if he desired it. Now, honest rascal, though I refused, being demanded, to send thee powers to treat, yet thou (knowing my well-grounded confidence of thee) may'st easily judge the warrant-dormant power thou hast in this, as in any thing else, where confidence may be placed on any man: but for fear that thy modesty in this particular might hinder thee to remember thy power of trust, which I have given thee, I thought not amiss to write as I have written.